

COUNTRY

West Germany

REPORT NO.

TOPIC Oranienburg Airfield

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 3 to 23 July 1952

25X1 DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 20 August 1952

25X1 REFERENCES [REDACTED]

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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25X1 [REDACTED] 1. On 3, 4 and 6 July 1952, double sentries were observed at Oranienburg airfield. [REDACTED] surveying at the field would apparently be completed by late June, but observed that this activity still continued in early July. On 4 July, 2 men and 2 women were surveying near Kremmen Bridge.

25X1 [REDACTED] 2. Between 7 and 12 July, the same quantity of laundry was turned in to a laundry by the air force construction unit in Weisse Stadt as during the preceding weeks. [REDACTED] the personnel strength of this unit was unchanged. Some pieces of laundry were marked "Soviet Army Hotel". This hotel probably was a building in Weisse Stadt for transient officers. No such hotel was known to be located in the town.

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25X1 [REDACTED] 3. Up to 8 July, no extension work was observed. On 8 July, about 15 FDJ members practiced motorcycle driving at the field.

4. On 23 July, about 100 air force soldiers were observed in the northern section of Weisse Stadt, mainly in the former Hans Schemm School. An air force sentry was posted in front of a building in the southern section of Weisse Stadt, but no personnel could be observed in this building. Truck [REDACTED] moved from the direction of Germendorf toward Weisse Stadt. It was an old truck [REDACTED]. Cable reels and boards were being unloaded from two boxcars and some flatcars on the spur track of the field. Civilians were in the southern section of the runway. No construction work was observed. About noon, two empty trucks, [REDACTED] driven by a civilian and [REDACTED] went from the field toward Legebruch.

25X1 [REDACTED] 5. On 10 July, [REDACTED] woman laborers were hired for Oranienburg airfield by a certain Franke (Inu) in Legebruch.

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6. On 16, 17 and 21 July, [REDACTED] A 25X1 strip of about 50 meters was staked off on both sides of the large runway. No preliminary extension work was observed at the northwestern end of the runway, while a strip, about 550 x 160 meters, at the southeastern end was

staked off toward the drainage ditch across cultivated fields. At both sides of the runway, just at its edge, 60 to 80 holes, each 1.5 x 2 x 2 meters, were excavated. Wooden poles were placed into these holes along the staked-off strip. These poles did not project beyond the surface of the ground. A wooden wedge, about 2 inches wide, was driven into the upper section of the poles; the wedge did not extend beyond the top of the pole. A new water pipe was being laid along the side of Leegebruch, about 20 meters from the staked off strip. The ditch had already been excavated. An overhead telephone line was extended from Veltin Bridge to Wilhelminenhof. No further construction was observed prior to 21 July.

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7. In the afternoon of 12 July, 10 workers from Leipzig arrived at the field. Some of them were quartered in Annahof. They told the farmer that more workers from Leipzig as well as machines and equipment would arrive between 12 and 19 July. They further stated that temporary buildings were scheduled to be erected on the terrain near Wilhelminenhof, that the buildings in Wilhelminenhof would be made ready for quartering purposes and that some low brick buildings were to be constructed. Work was allegedly done by nationalized plant in Leipzig. Another 10 workers from Leipzig arrived between 15 and 19 July. Some of the workers cleaned the rooms which still existed in the former monastery of Wilhelminenhof. A telephone line was being laid to Wilhelminenhof to be connected with the public telephone exchange. The workers of the advance detail were quartered in Weisse Stadt.

8. About 3:30 p.m. on 14 July, telephone poles and insulators were hauled to the field by a truck from Granienburg. Some of the poles were unloaded at the road, just east of Veltin Bridge, and the remaining poles were unloaded west of this bridge. The shipment was accompanied by postal workers, some of whom wore uniforms. the telephone construction group learned who has been at the field since 12 July, that about 200 laborers of the Leipzig Bauunion were expected to arrive at the field. These workers were to be quartered in the Wilhelminenhof. Other workers were allegedly expected to arrive from Granienburg and its vicinity. further stated that a spur track, about 2,000 meters long, required for the transportation of construction material, was to be laid along the runway. He also said that the Granienburg-Leegebruch road north of the field would soon be blocked because it was to be included in the field area.

9. The terrain south of the runway was staked off by small poles, placed in fields about 4 meters square. The staked off area had a length of about 600 meters. Another strip of 100 meters at the extension of the 600-meter strip was staked off by poles 50 meters apart. The last pole was about 100 meters north of the small drainage ditch.

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10. Between 2 and 9 July, surveying was still under way at the field. A scrap salvaging firm from Granienburg cleared the field. On 14 July, surveying was completed at the field. On 18 July, German guards at the field said that the definitely took over construction work at the field on 17 July. About 45 workers were preparing the site. This work was scheduled to take about eight days. No change was observed in the personnel strength of the air force unit in the restricted Weisse Stadt Settlement.

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11. About 3:30 p.m. on 14 July, a bus arrived at the entrance of the field and 32 men with baggage and blankets got out. Another group of 18 men arrived five minutes later. All the workers spoke with a Saxonian dialect. Work had not started up to 15 July.

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12. At noon on 21 July, a train of 3 boxcars and 12 flatcars was shunted to the loading ramp at the field. The cars were loaded with construction material and equipment, boards, planks, beams and lining boards. On 22 July, the material was unloaded by [redacted] workers and piled in front of the loading ramp. On 20 July, a worker and two women removed the wooden poles which had been set up in the meadows in the extension of the runway. [redacted] *

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* [redacted] Comment. The report indicates that the target date of 1 August 1952 which was previously reported fixed for the beginning of construction work will probably be kept. [redacted] The information confirms the scheduled extension of the North-South runway to the south toward the drainage ditch. The restricted Weisse Stadt Settlement still quarters a portion of the air force construction unit. The bulk of this unit is assigned to construction work at the airfields near Retzow and Buchholz.

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